United Nations S/2017/812

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 September 2017
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 28 September 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Further to our letters informing you of the crimes committed by the "international coalition" led by the United States of America and the coalition's attacks against the sovereignty and the territorial integrity and unity of the Syrian Arab Republic and against innocent Syrian civilians, I should like to convey to you the following information:

Hardly a day has gone by over the past few months in which the forces of the illegitimate "international coalition" have not carried out a barbaric act of aggression against innocent civilians and infrastructure in various parts of the Syrian Arab Republic. The Syrian Arab Republic has sent successive letters to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council concerning those acts of aggression and repeatedly called upon the Security Council to put an end to them immediately. However, the "international coalition" continues to systematically kill civilians and destroy infrastructure, while the international community remains puzzlingly silent.

On 27 September 2017, "international coalition" warplanes bombarded the town of Suwar in the Dayr al-Zawr countryside with the internationally prohibited substance white phosphorous, killing a number of civilians and injuring others, and causing severe material damage to public and private property.

On 26 September 2017, the air force of the "international coalition" committed a massacre in the town of Markadah, which is located south of Hasakah city, killing three Syrian civilians, two of whom were women, and an Iraqi family of six that had been displaced from Mosul and had fled to Hasakah.

The Syrian Arab Republic again strongly condemns the attacks carried out by and the war crimes and crimes against humanity being committed by the "international coalition". It is regrettable that the membership of the coalition includes States that claim to respect human rights and international law, and boast that they do not commit any war crimes or crimes against humanity. Meanwhile, that coalition continues to unabatedly commit bloody crimes in the name of those States. The Syrian Arab Republic once again requests that the coalition should be disbanded and its attacks halted immediately, particularly given that the attacks are not being directed against the terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). It asks those States, which customarily call for the cessation of all forms of hostility and for human rights and international humanitarian law to be

respected, to withdraw from the coalition, which has besmirched their reputations and killed many Syrians in their names.

It must be noted that the forces and aircraft of certain members of the "coalition" have been guilty of providing financial and logistical support to the terrorist organization ISIL. The international community will not forget the crime that American aircraft committed when they bombarded a Syrian Arab Army position in Jabal Thurdah in Dayr al-Zawr, killing many Syrian Arab Army soldiers and personnel of allied forces. ISIL then occupied that area and tightened the siege of Dayr al-Zawr city, thus demonstrating that ISIL and the Americans coordinate with one another. Many reliable sources have reported that American aircraft recently intervened in the evacuation of many ISIL leaders, who were taken to unknown locations. The aim of that action was to cover up the fact that America supports that terrorist organization and others throughout Syria.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again calls upon the Security Council to act immediately in order to halt the savage crimes and the grave violations of international humanitarian law and human rights that are being committed by the "coalition", which violates the territorial integrity of Syria and was established without a request from the Syrian Government or authorization from the United Nations and in contravention of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The Government calls upon the States members of the coalition that do not want to be implicated in the killing of Syrian civilians to withdraw from the coalition immediately.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic calls upon the Security Council to fulfil its primary responsibility to maintain international peace and security. It also calls upon the Council to enforce compliance with and ensure implementation of its resolutions concerning counter-terrorism, including, in particular, resolution 2253 (2015), and to act immediately in order to prevent the coalition from committing additional crimes against innocent civilians in the Syrian Arab Republic.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative